AP US History

Chapter 12 Questions

1. To what extent was the abolition movement united/divided?

The extent was pretty much more divided than unity. They were united under the idea that slavery was terrible and was the contradictions of their beliefs. But the abolitionists were divided into two main forces. The first of the two sides were abolitionists who believed that a peaceful conclusion was the way to end slavery. The other side was more radical abolitionists who only thought that fighting and violent actions were the only way to end slavery. The radicals had even wanted disunity of the North from the South so that the North could free themselves from the evils of slavery. Events that they both shared were helping runaway slaves by hiding them from their slave owners, but only when the less radical abolitionists’ ways were not as productive as they wished. Overall, the less radical abolitionists and the radical abolitionists had the same views on slavery, but what to do about it was very different,

1. To what extent was this reform era successful for women?

The reform era had provided women more power and success for them. Most women had participated in all of the events, especially if it involved them; such as the temperance movement, wives of husbands who drink alcohol. Some of these movements had allowed women to have power equal to men in those movements (as supporters) and some even to help lead their own group in that movement. During the reform era, the rise of feminism had occurred and slowly gained power but it was limited to only a small percentage, for example, Elizabeth Blackwell became a physician. In the end success had been given to women, successful acts like the temperance and education where women have benefited from the accomplishments of those movements (less drinking, more opportunities for women to educate themselves).

1. What are the three most important lessons about attempting to enact change that we can learn from this reform era? Explain your choices.

The three lessons I believe were most important was that trying to change something from bad to perfect is impossible, to gain support for your movement you must expect slow starts, and your change must be part of the leading belief at the time. My first choice was created and wholly influenced by the attempted creations of utopias. Communities weren’t too bad back then, but were imperfect, and when they had tried to create those utopias, they had all failed. The second came from the slight increase of women’s rights and the abolitionist movement. Women did not have a lot of power; they did increase it but very slowly. Abolitionists did have a faster support, but not everyone had supported the idea. The final lesson comes from all of them or transcendentalism. The idea of transcendentalism became widely popular in areas of America and so they had prospered with succeeding their goals.

1. Who were the winners and losers of this reform era? Explain your choices.

The winners were Protestants, supporters of Romanticism and Transcendentalism, and the abolitionists. The losers were Catholics, perhaps women, and slavery supporters. The winners were…the winners because they were part of the new trend of reform that was going on and had strong support. The last three were losers because, Catholics (immigrants) had supported drinking and caused a threat to the temperance movement making them unpopular, women because their new powers from the movements had caused them to suffer, and slave supporters because of the abolitionists in America would pose a threat to their way of life.